(c) In view of (a) and (b) above, does not arise.

Chrome Export

2826. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that India accounts for just about 1 per cent of chrome ore reserves in the world but exports 33 per cent of the global trade in chrome ore and concentrates;

(b) whether it is a fact that India has been exporting nearly 1.2 million tonnes of chrome ore and concentrate annually while our output is 3 million tonnes;

(c) if so, whether it is a fact that the exports have led to artificial escalation of domestic prices of chrome ore by 70-80 percent; and

(d) if so, the remedial action proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) As per available information, the total resource of chromite in India are roughly 2.5% of global resources. In 2003-04, Indian export of chromite was 0.75 million tonnes against a total annual production of 2.9 million tonnes. The prices of chromite have risen in the last two years but domestic prices are substantially less than the international prices. There is no shortage of supply.

(d) In view of (a) to (c) above, does not arise.

Gold and Diamond Mining

2827. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

The number and locations of the places where gold and diamond mining is carried out in the country, both in public and private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): As per the information furnished by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office of Ministry of Mines, the number of places and locations where gold and diamond mining is carried out in the country in the private sector and public sector is as below:

Gold:- There are three places where minning is carried out *viz.* Hutti Gold Mines and Uti Gold Mines of M/s Hutti Gold Mines Company Limited which is a Government of Karnataka undertaking and M/s Manmohan Industries (P) Ltd which is in the private sector. First two mines are located in Raichur District of Karnataka and third in Singhbhum East District in Jharkhand.

Diamond:- There is only one mine where diamond mining is carried out *viz.* Majgawan village in Panna district of Madhya Pradesh by M/s National Mineral Development Corporation Limited which is a Central Government Public Sector Undertaking.

Growth Rate of Industries

12828. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA: SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that growth rate of industries in metal sector has been 9 per cent while dividends have gone up by 14 per cent upto the month of September, 2005;

(b) if not, the fact in this regard and whether it is also a fact that prices of raw material required for industries have increased upto 17 per cent; and

(c) if not, the actual position in this regard and the reasons for increase in dividends despite increase in cost of production as compared to sale prices?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.